

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23632

Pursuant to the provisions of Idaho Code Section 31-3501, it is the policy of the state of Idaho that each person is responsible for his or her own medical costs including the purchase of insurance. It is further the requirement of the Affordable Care Act that individuals are obligated by law to purchase insurance, and are given a cash incentive to accomplish that requirement.

Because of the state and federal requirement to purchase insurance, this legislation would limit the responsibility of the state catastrophic health care cost program and the county medical indigency program established in chapter 35, title 31, Idaho Code, to cover only those individuals whose income is below 100% of the federal poverty level. In order to be eligible for the state and county programs, an applicant still must meet all the requirements of chapter 35, title 31, Idaho Code.

FISCAL NOTE

Based upon an estimated 1200 cases annually, approximately 40% of those cases would exceed the poverty level. This would translate into a savings to the state general fund of approximately \$11 million and nearly \$5 million to the county taxpayers.

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